

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A pectin comprising a galacturonic acid of from 70 to 90 mole % as a constituent sugar, and wherein the molecular weight measured by the gel filtration chromatography is in the range of  $1 \times 10^4$  to  $5 \times 10^7$  and the peak molecular weight is in the range of  $2 \times 10^5$  to  $1 \times 10^7$ .
2. (Original) The pectin according to claim 1, wherein the mole ratio of the constituent sugars of a galacturonic acid : arabinose : galactose : glucuronic acid : glucose : xylose : rhamnose : mannose : fructose is 7 to 9 : 0.4 to 0.7 : 0.4 to 0.6 : 0.1 to 0.6 : 0.05 to 0.5 : 0.04 to 0.4 : 0 to 0.1 : 0 to 0.08 : 0 to 0.05.
3. (Currently Amended) The pectin according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein the pectin is separated and recovered from ~~the a culture or the a culture broth obtained by culturing a Nigella plant cell.~~
4. (Original) The pectin according to claim 3, wherein the Nigella plant is *Nigella damascena* or *Nigella sativa*.
5. (Cancel)

6. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic material containing the pectin as described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.
7. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the pectin as described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, claim 1, which comprises separating and recovering the pectin as described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ from the a culture or the a culture broth obtained by culturing the a Nigella plant cell.
8. (New) The pectin according to claim 2, wherein the pectin is separated and recovered from a culture or a culture broth obtained by culturing a Nigella plant cell.
9. (New) The pectin according to claim 8, wherein the Nigella plant is *Nigella damascena* or *Nigella sativa*.
10. (New) A moisturizer containing the pectin as described in claim 1.